



Tippecanoe County GIS Policy Committee Meeting Notes July, 19th 2005

The *GIS* Policy Committee members met Tuesday July 19th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room of the Tippecanoe County Office Building. Mr. Steve Murray called the meeting to order.

County Employees present

Surveyor Steve Murray, County Assessor Nancy Moore, Director of APC Sallie Fahey, 911 Director Rick Walker, GIS Coordinator Khalid Hasan, MITS Director Diane Hawkins, Commissioner KD Benson, Gini Tull from the Auditors Office, Cinde Shockey Recording Secretary

AGENDA

- 1. GIS Data Products and Service Charges: Review**
- 2. GIS Priorities 2005**
- 3. Others**

GIS Data Products and Service Charges: Review

Concerning GIS data charges, Steve says some of the Surveyors are holding out thinking they should be able to receive the data without a fee. The local Surveyors chapter asked if they could receive the GIS information for free since they will be required to submit digital copies under the proposed ordinance. Diane had proposed dropping the charge to \$5000.00 to buy the whole county on disk with a subscription service to receive updates periodically. Steve believes we may get 6 or 8 companies interested in purchasing the data in this format. Diane would like to speak to the committee about selling the data to for-profit companies. Some of these companies may be interested in mass-mailing etc. Diane brings the point to the table that this is can also be looked at as an economic development tool. KD believes taking off the profit restriction would boost sales and would like to know how the data is policed. Khalid states that there is a \$2500.00 fine for recreating the data and distributing it. Diane states that no one has purchased the whole county yet and so they have had no reason to police the use of the data. Rick Walker asks the committee whether misuse of the data would result in a civil action or an ordinance infraction. Sally suggests entering into a contractual agreement with the purchasers of the data requiring restriction on the data, and this would be enforceable by legal action. Nancy is getting close to putting the assessor's information on the website brings the point that this data would be available also. Diane says that the name and address information is public information available on the website however, we would be giving enhanced access to the data. Khalid receives requests periodically from commercial users and once they read the ordinance and the cost

they never ask for the information again. KD says that the \$5,000.00-\$10,000.00 dollar range is affordable enough to encourage some companies to buy the data and keep the data unattainable for people who might want to misuse it. This fee is based on what the board decides is a reasonable cost for the enhanced service not necessarily the cost to produce the data. Diane has suggested a \$300 update fee regardless of how often they would like an update. Khalid discusses the topic of data packaging. Should we offer only one package for the data which includes all the layers for one price or should we package it by layer with a different fee depending on how many layers purchased. We will also have color photos arriving within 6 months with 6 inch resolution. Layers are Surveyors section corners; topography; parcel layer; hydro layer from 2002; soils layer; and transportation. KD thinks there are benefits to having one pre-packaged option to reduce the labor of the GIS technicians. Discussion ensues about whether to sell by the tile, layer etc. Diane asks the board if changing the ordinance to allow for selling the data should be pursued. Sallie believes the data should be available but would like to see the data prepared in such a way that it cannot be used for mass mailing. KD puts a question to the board about how much a vendor like MAIL charges for a countywide mailing. Nancy Moore, just used MAIL for a mass-mailed reassessment to the county. The cost was around \$12,000.00 including postage. KD thinks this would still be cheaper than buying our data and then having to pay the postage. Diane says it may be possible to place a watermark on the fields so they couldn't use the data directly for a mailing list. Nancy believes this is public information and should be available to the public but sold in a pre-packaged way rather than doing specialized orders. Diane says we are currently giving specialized service in the form of paper maps. She would like to reduce the number of requests GIS techs are receiving by making the data affordable. This would allow them time to work on other GIS projects. Steve believes this should move forward but he would like to give more thought to the fees and how the parcel layer can be used. Sallie would like to know if the owner information can be separated from the parcel layer. Diane says that it can be removed so the parcel layer could still be included. Khalid says we usually give them raw data but GIS could create a stand-alone product that will almost function like the GIS website. This could be used to exclude some of the information and would make it more interactive. Nancy brings up the point that the Lafayette City Directory can be purchased on CD now and it is a very complete packaged product. KD asks if anyone has a really strong feeling about this either way. Sallie says GIS was originally created to make things better for the County internally and also for the citizens. She thinks we should initially sell it as someday we may have it available free but we should sell it at a price where it can actually be sold. Diane also asks the board to change the ordinance so that all of the map funds are going directly into a map generation fund to support the GIS department instead of 50% going into General Fund as it does now. This could be designated for specific use in GIS whether it be salaries or equipment etc. KD and Steve both agree with putting the this money into a dedicated fund.

GIS Priorities 2005

Steve addresses the board members with setting goals for 2005 and beyond. Steve thinks the board needs to have continued discussions with other departments like they did with APC to plan out specific goals for GIS. One very large project is going to be Building Permits and finding a software to help track them. He also sees Highway as a potential for tracking permits in the future. There are many different department using permits and with GPS locators being reasonably priced he would like to see GIS used in the future for

tracking all permits. Steve would like to follow through by setting up appointments with individual departments to set goals. Sallie would like to address the board with a few comments about future GIS use. Asking department staff to spend time learning GIS is inefficient. She would like her staff to be able to use it as a tool rather than learning the mechanics which requires devoting a lot of time. She would like to see the priorities include having enough GIS staff and resources to provide support to the departments. As GIS becomes more sophisticated GIS needs to have enough staff to be able to support the increased service. Sallie says that if each department needs to have GIS support then each department needs to have the funds available to them to pay for it. KD would like each department to consider GIS skills when hiring for positions. Should each department have their own technician or should GIS have more staff available? This is a key point which needs to be addressed in the future. Steve asks KD to discuss the GIS interns for next year. KD says the Commissioners would like to see a couple new part-time people added to GIS to learn the county and the system and then when a department is looking for a GIS tech we would have people available and trained. Steve thinks the board needs to have one-on-one conversations with individual departments about planning GIS goals. Diane addresses her handout which lists priorities that she and Khalid have designated as priorities for GIS right now. These are ranked by priority.

GIS Priorities 2005

- 1. Provide responsive service to public requests for GIS maps**
- 2. Maintain parcel updates from Auditors Office**
- 3. Coordinate GIS data from 911 with CAD software to ensure accuracy and compatibility.**
- 4. Creation of Assessor's land use layer**
- 5. Continue enhancing skill level of GIS technicians using MicroStation tools**
- 6. Continual improvements on GIS Website to provide best possible response**
- 7. Surveyors Drains data + DTM + Impervious layer + other goals discussion**
- 8. APC Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan**
- 9. Deed Chek Software for APC**
- 10. FEMA Maps**
- 11. Zoning Layer APC**

Others

KD would like to possibly expand the discussion about selling GIS data to include both cities since it involves policy making. Diane says we would not include the city data since it is their data. KD also would like to address possibly adding law enforcement information to GIS as a layer and asks the questions as to whether the Sheriff should be included. Rick says there is data available which might be suitable for GIS such as crash data. The state has a crash database now which includes data from 2001 and up. You have to be cleared to get access to this data at the current time. KD would also like to have data available such as where the most juvenile crime exists so they can use this for planning facilities etc. Khalid believes the data may already be available and could possibly be used. Khalid says any information which is being logged into a digital system can be manipulated for GIS. This concludes the meeting.